

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Miller, and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee:

I am writing as a concerned citizen of the State of Connecticut and the City of Bridgeport and in support of HB #5886.

The passage of this bill will allow Bridgeport to adhere to our charter, which specifically states no city employees can serve on the City Council and also show the citizens of CT you support home rule.

We have no finance committee or budget committee independent of the Elected city council members. The budget is reviewed by and voted on by people who are both elected officials and city employees. If you research the voting record of the council people this bill will affect, you will see they do not recuse themselves from voting on their own department budgets, including their own salaries. While it may not be illegal due to the current state law this bill will modify, clearly it sends a strong message that any reasonable person would see as an endorsed ethics violation.

In my humble opinion, Your support of this bill will show the citizens of CT you support ethical government practices, and you support the city of Bridgeport.

Thank you for your public service as an elected official, and your thoughtful consideration of this bill.

Sent from my iPad
Jennifer Buchanan
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